8th September 1960]

Family Planning

* 112. Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the methods adopted in the hospitals for family planning;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated each method; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Persons with less than three living children are advised to take up non-surgical methods of Family Planning and they are also supplied with contraceptives. Those who have three or more living children are advised to take up the surgical method. If any of them is not willing to undergo the operation he or she is advised to follow non-surgical methods and is also supplied with contraceptives free of cost or at subsidised rates, if required.

(b) & (c) As far as Madras City is concerned, during the period from October 1959 to February 1960, 35,413 mothers and 6,946 fathers were advised on Family Planning. Of these, 5,071 mothers and fathers actually practised some method, natural or contraceptive. Foam tablets seem to be most popular among them. It is however found that very few mothers and fathers follow any method regularly for any length of time.

In the year 1959, 436 fathers and 855 mothers were operated in the city. In the same period 894 fathers and 1,158 mothers were operated in the mofussil. During the period January to the end of June 1960, 522 fathers and 555 mothers underwent sterilisation operation in the city alone. During the same period 493 fathers and 575 mothers have undergone sterilisation operation in the mofussil. It is seen from the figures that vasectomy is becoming increasingly popular.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know why in the matter of seeking advice and also operation there is so much of disparity between men and women? (Laughter).

(Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar rose.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Hon. Minister answer the question.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : That question cannot be answered, Sir. (Laughter.)

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Have the Government any processes of ascertaining the effectiveness of these methods on these people? I do not want to repeat the figures.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No, there has not been a regular follow-up. But it is understood that the people who have been operated, i.e., sterilized, do not bear children. If they have children it is due to other reasons. (Laughter.)

(Hon. Members rose.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think we will stop there.